DISTRICT CENSUS REPORT.

REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF THE DISTRICT OF SHAHABAD, 1891.

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CONTENTS.

		Page.
Head	I.—Early History, &c.	1
„	II.—Movement of the Population	2
„	III.—Varying density of the Population	5
„	IV.—Religion	5
„	V.—Infirmities	6
„	VI.—Education	7
„	VII.—Language	9
„	VIII.—Castes	9
„	IX.—Occupations	10
„	X—Administrative	11

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DISTRICT CENSUS REPORT.

No. 96G., dated Arrah, the 8th April 1892.

From—F. H. B. SKRINE, ESQ., Collector of Shahabad,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

WITH reference to your circular No. 6T.F. Census, dated 5th October 1891, I have the honour to submit a report on the results of the last census in this district. It has mainly been compiled by Mr. J. H. Bernard, Covenanted Deputy-Collector, but has been carefully revised by me.

REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF THE DISTRICT OF SHAHABAD, 1891.

HEAD I.—EARLY HISTORY, &c.

THE ancient history of the district is involved in obscurity. The following outlines, however, may be gathered from Mr. Winton Oldham's antiquarian researches and local traditions. The district once formed part of the kingdom of Asoka, and came under the influence of Sakya Muni. Subsequently, from the beginning of the fourth to the end of the seventh century, it was included within the empire of the Gupta dynasty. The population was partly Aryan and partly aboriginal. After the downfall of the Gupta dynasty, the Aryan lords of the country weakened by internecine strife were unable to hold it, and gave way to the aborigines, and thus it happened that the district, which thirteen hundred years ago formed an important part of a civilized Aryan monarchy, relapsed into barbarism, and came under the sway of a number of petty aboriginal Chiefs, and had a very small Aryan population. The ruling aboriginal tribe at this period in Shahabad was the Cheru, and the district was till a comparatively recent period in a great degree owned by the Cheroos, and governed by their Chieftains. There seems, no doubt, that the Cherus were eventually conquered by the Rajputs from Ujjain in Malwa. Raja Bhoj is credited with having subdued them over a large part of the district, and with having brought the *pargana* of Bhojpur under his control The family records of the Hyabuns Rajas belonging to another powerful Rajput clan, who formerly ruled at Bihia, notice a conflict between the Cherus und Hyabuns Chiefs, which lasted for hundreds of years, and terminated in favour of the Rajputs. The Cherus are now to be found as settled cultivators in the district, and many of them inhabit the reclaimed Jagadispur jungle. The Rajputs and Agarwalas are the only castes who appear to have immigrated from other provinces. The Agarwalas are numerically few. They are all well off, having set up as bankers and traders in the towns. No members of this caste are found in villages. As is stated in Hunter's Statistical Account of Shahabad, they assert that their ancestors originally came from Agruha in the North-Western Provinces. They have kept up no connection with the nidus of their caste. The chief Agarwala families have been settled here for several generations.

2. The Rajputs, who are one of the largest castes in point of numbers, came from various places in Upper and Western India. The Maharaja of Dumraon is an Ujjain Rajput, and a number of the most important *zamindars* in this district belong to the same sub-caste. They came from Ujjain in Malwa, and expelled the Cherus from the country round Bihia and Dumraon, about a thousand years ago, under the leadership of Raja Bhoj. Shortly after the Muhammadan invasion three Ujjain *sardars* are frequently mentioned in the district annals, viz., those of Jagadispur, Dumraon and Buxar. The head of the Ujjain clan is the Maharaja of Dumraon. He traces back his pedigree eighty-seven generations from Raja Bikramajit, from whom the Samvat era of the Hindus is reckoned. Of their ancestors, sixty-nine were the rulers of Ujjain in Malwa, and the first settler in the Bhojpur *pargana* of Shahabad was Raja Somer Shah, from whom the late Maharaja Radha Prosad Singh was eighteenth in descent.

3. Another important and highly-esteemed sub-caste of the Chhatris is the Rajkumar. The Raja of Bhagwanpur is a member of this sub-caste. They are said to have come from Sikri in the North-Western Provinces. The Raja himself states that he is descended from one of three sons of a Raja who quarrelled and agreed to separate. One went north-west to Jammu, another came to Shahabad and settled in Chainpur and afterwards in Bhagwanpur. He does not seem to have invaded this country; but the result of the settlement was that the Suaris who were settled in the Bhabhua subdivision, were forced to retire southwards and eastwards.

4. There are many other sub-castes of Rajputs, all of whom appear from enquiry to have migrated from the north-west. The Bisains say that they came from Majhowli-Barikpore to the west of Mirzapore; the Bhais Rajputs from Bhaiswara near Lucknow; the Marhwaris from Marhwar. They appear to have begun to immigrate not less than three hundred years ago, and to have come in a peaceable manner. Many, no doubt, joined the East India Company's forces. There is in this district no ancient division of country which affected the settlement of people in times past. Rajputs are found in large numbers all over the district, except on the Kaimur plateau, which, owing to its physical characteristics, did not suit them.

5. The Bhuinhars or Babhans are an important caste, who appear to have been settled in Shahabad for many generations. They are supposed to have originated in a mixture of blood; and on this point there are several different legends. One is to the effect that they are Brahmans who have taken to agricultural pursuits. Another local legend runs that they were originally drummers to Ravana, King of Lanka. Yet another is, that Jarasindha, a Raja of Magadha, determined to feast a lakh and a quarter of Brahmans. He could not find so many of the priestly caste, and called in all sorts and conditions of men. All who partook of the feast were dubbed by the King "Bhujhanhar" Brahmans or Babhans.

6. The Kayasths have no clear history of their origin Various theories about it, which have been advanced, apply no more to Kayasths of this district than of others.

7. Something is known of the early history of the Musalmans of this district. The *Chaudharis*, who are the richest Muhammadan family in Arrah, are said to have immigrated about 600 years ago in the time of Firoz Shah, when they bought land in Arrah, being favoured by the Musalman Nawabs, who were in power here up to the time of Akbar.

8. The Koath family came from Biligram in Oudh with Nawab Nurul Husain Khan, from whom they are descended. This Nurul Husain was the first lieutenant of Shuja-ud-Doula, Nawab of Oudh, who was defeated at Buxar, and on making peace with the English was given land with a revenue amounting to two lakhs. The family has been impoverished through extravagance and the extortion of money-lenders.

9. The town of Sasaram is the place where the Muhammadans bear the largest proportion to the population. Many of them are Pathans, and are descended from the members of the household of Hasain Sur Shah and his son Sher Shah, Emperor of Delhi. But there were Muhammadans in Sasaram before the time of Sher Shah. The ancestors of the Sajjada Nashin of the Sasaram Khankah were *fakirs* there at a much earlier date than the 16th century.

10 In Chainpur, in the Bhabhua subdivision, a number of Rajputs and other Hindu castes became Muhammadans. Some were converts by force, and others found substantial advantages in voluntarily embracing Islam. Several villages in Chainpur contain such Muhammadans. They still practise many Hindu customs, such as plastering the floor before cooking and bathing before meals.

Head II.—Movement of the Population.

11. The population of the district, according to the census of 1891, is 2,063,337, as against 1,952,647 for the same area in 1881 (deduction being made of the population of the tract transferred to Saran in 1890 from the actual figures for 1881). These figures show an increase of 110,690 souls, or nearly 5·7 per cent., as against a supposed increase of 13 97 per cent. during the preceding nine years. It amounts to nearly 4·9 per cent. in the case of males and of slightly less than 6·37 per cent. in that of females. The latter have more than maintained their position of preponderance over males, and are still increasing faster than the other sex.

12. At first sight it would appear that the population increased nearly three times as fast in the nine years previous to 1881 as it did in the last decade, and the inference would be that either large numbers of people were omitted during the previous census or that the years between 1881 and 1891 were years of excessive mortality. Either inference would be far from the truth. It is quite certain that the census of 1881 was a more accurate one than any preceding one. The explanation of the difference in the rate of increase must be looked for in the census of 1872, in which the enumeration did not come up to the standard of correctness attained at subsequent censuses.

13. The following table gives the variation in village population in the various *thanas* since 1881:—

Name of Thana.	Males.		Increase or decrease.	Females.		Increase or decrease.	Total.		Percentage of increase or decrease.
	1891	1881.		1891.	1881.		1891.	1881.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Arrah	139,506	126,865	+ 12,641	163,701	142,971	+ 20,730	303,207	269,836	+ 12·37
Belauti	88,6[illegible]2	87,781	+ 871	97 728	95,530	+ 2 198	186 380	183,311	+ 1·7
Piaro	95,980	88,085	+ 7,895	101,983	91,407	+ 10,576	197,963	179,492	+ 10 3
Buxar	72,573	70,706	+ 1,867	78,359	76,051	+ 2,308	150,932	146 757	+ 2 84
Dumraon ...	119,407	115,648	+ 3,759	133,920	126,861	+ 7,059	253,327	242,509	+ 4·4
Sasaram	68,582	65 700	+ 2,882	72 779	68 242	+ 4,537	141,361	133,942	+ 5·5
Dhangain	88,672	87,715	+ 957	93 674	92,201	+ 1,473	182,346	179,916	+ 1·35
Kharghar	50,671	51,717	— 1,046	52,884	52,930	— 46	103,555	104,647	— 1
Dehri ..	41 094	39,294	+ 1,700	42 297	39,590	+ 2,707	83 381	78,884	+ 5·7
Bhabhua	84,528	79,277	+ 5,251	87,221	83 159	+ 4,062	171,749	162,436	+ 5·7
Mohanea ...	80,011	74,198	+ 5,813	82,926	76,215	+ 6,711	162,937	150,413	+ 8·3

It will be observed that the figures given here for 1881 vary in some cases from those of the printed table for that census, the reason being that deductions or additions have been made where necessary, owing to changes of jurisdiction, or to the fact that villages enumerated as towns in 1881 were treated as part of the rural area at the last census.

14. The difference in the rates of increase in different parts of the district is one of the most remarkable features of this census. It is impossible to account for these variations by any deductions from the figures. They do not show that any one part of the district is more

healthy than another. Indeed, in both *thanas* of the Bhabhua subdivision, which is popularly but wrongly supposed to be the most unhealthy part of the district, there has been a substantial increase in population. Arrah and Buxar are generally considered to be equally healthy; and yet in the Arrah *thana* we find an increase of over 12 per cent., and in Buxar an increase of less than 3 per cent. Arrah and Belauti are adjacent *thanas*, and the difference between them is even more marked, than that between Arrah and Buxar. Nor can it be said that one of these *thanas* is subject to influences which do not affect the other. The territory of both is bounded on the north by the Ganges, and in the south of each there is a considerable area irrigated by canals. In both rice, *rabi*, and *bhadoi* crops are grown. The theory often lately advanced, that the health of the district has of late years been injuriously affected by the canals, finds no support from these figures. In Piaro *thana*, the very centre of the canal system, we find an increase of over 10 per cent. Again in Mohanea, where part of the land is irrigated by the canals, there is a larger increase than in Bhabhua *thana*, where there is no canal irrigation.

15. The consideration of the growth of population would be incomplete without the following table, which gives the number of deaths reported in each *thana* and municipality from 1881 to 1890 inclusive.

In the last column the percentage of reported deaths on the population is given for *thana* areas. The same percentage has not been calculated for municipalities, as the registration of deaths in them is notoriously inaccurate, and varies in different towns according to the interest taken by the Municipal Corporations in the subject.

Name of Thana or Town.	Population in 1881.	Number of deaths recorded 1881–90.	Percentage of mortality.
1	2	3	4
Arrah thana ...	269,642	57,198	21·2
Belauti do. ...	183,311	34,451	18·7
Piaro do. ...	179,492	38,465	21·4
Buxar do. ...	146,757	42,454	28·9
Dumraon do. ...	242,509	61,728	25·4
Sasaram do. ...	133,942	38,578	28·8
Dhangain do. ...	179,916	44,563	24·7
Kharghar do. ...	104,647	32,287	30·8
Dehri do. ...	78,884	19,091	24·2
Bhabhua do. ...	166,095	43,245	26·0
Mohanea do. ...	150,413	44,268	29·4
Arrah town ...	42,998	8,078	
Sasaram do. ...	21,818	6,415	
Dumraon do. ...	17,429	4,370	
Buxar do. ...	16,498	3,446	
Jagadispur do. ...	12,568	3,246	
Bhabhua do. ...	5,728	1,575	

The figures in this table, showing the percentage of mortality do not in all cases vary with those already given, showing the movement of the population, but it will be observed that the largest percentage of deaths has been recorded in Kharghar, the only *thana* in the district in which the population has decreased.

16. Registered emigration from Shahabad has no perceptible effect on the movement of population. Between 1881 and 1890 only 6,129 residents of the district were registered as emigrants. Such emigration may therefore be left out of consideration as insignificant. There is a certain amount of unregistered emigration to the tea gardens of Cachar, and many inhabitants of Shahabad seek service of different kinds in Lower Bengal. Others, again, migrate during the winter months in search of field-work in the same quarter. The census returns of this district do not show the number of such emigrants, and we can only guess that it increases in a direct ratio with improvements in means of locomotion. Few educated residents of Shahabad obtain employment in Bengal. The greater part of the emigrants from this district to Bengal belong to the labouring classes, while an appreciable number are petty traders, and a certain number Brahmans and Rajputs. The traders are principally of the Rouniyar, Kulwar, and Paneri castes. Some of them have permanently settled in Bengal. Jolahas trading in piece-goods, carpets and *daries* set out for Bengal as peddlers at the commencement of the cold weather, and return to their homes here for the rainy season. Jolahas and Dhunias among the Muhammadans, and among the Hindus, Ahirs, Dusadhs, Kahars, Dhobis and Mehtars, seek service mostly under Europeans in other

provinces. Brahmans and Rajputs from Shahabad make good soldiers and constables, and are often employed as *durwans* and peons and *lattyals* in Calcutta and elsewhere. These men are often well-to-do, and usually have land in this district, which their relatives look after in their absence.

17. Immigrants from Bengal are almost all in Government employment as clerks and school-masters. Some are medical practitioners, and more gain their living as pleaders. A very few come to Shahabad for purposes of trade.

18. The following table shows the number of males in each *thana*, born in other districts:—

Name.	Male population.	Number of males born in other districts.	Percentage of districts.
1	2	3	4
Arrah thana ...	162,932	15,272	9·3
Belauti do. ...	94,598	1,169	1·2
Piaro do. ...	95,980	1 505	1·6
Buxar do. ...	80,736	10,076	12·5
Dumraon do. ...	128,106	14,077	10·9
Sasaram do. ...	78,351	5,238	6·7
Dhangain do. ...	88,672	6,038	6·8
Kharghar do. ...	50,671	4,128	8·1
Dehri do. ...	41,084	3,390	8·2
Bhabhua do. ...	89,658	5,315	5·9
Mohanea do. ...	80,011	6,976	8·7
Total ...	990,799	73,184	7·4

19. The tables and registers compiled after the taking of the census afford no information as to the castes and occupations of the immigrants, and it would be impossible with the district staff to ascertain these particulars from an analysis of the enumerators' books. It is only in the towns that we find other than a small percentage of immigrants, and of those enumerated in urban areas it is safe to say that the greater number belongs to the educated and trading classes.

20. In the last census the six municipalities in the district were the only towns, the population of which was enumerated separately from the *mufassal* area. The following table compares their population in 1872, 1881, and 1891:—

Name of Towns.	Population.			Increase or Decrease.	
	1872.	1881.	1891.	From 1872 to 1881.	From 1881 to 1891.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Arrah ...	39,386	42,998	46,905	+ 3,612	+ 3,907
Sasaram ...	21,023	21,818	22,713	+ 705	+ 895
Dumraon ...	17,356	17,429	18,384	+ 73	+ 955
Buxar ...	13,446	16,498	15,506	+ 3,052	— 992
Jagadispur ...	9,400	12,568	12,475	+ 3,168	— 93
Bhabhua ...	5,071	5,728	10,216	+ 657	+ 4,488

No general remarks can be made on the variation in population of these towns. The decrease in the population of Buxar is due to infamously bad municipal organization, which has turned a sanitarium into a sink of abomination.

There has been a considerable increase in Arrah. As it is the head-quarters of the district and the most important centre of trade, this is what would have been expected.

Head III.—Varying Density of the Population.

21. The following table shows the variation in the density of the population in villages outside the boundaries of municipalities:—

Name of Thana.	Population per Square Mile.	
	In 1881.	In 1891.
1	2	3
Arrah	799·5	916·0
Belauti	756·8	770·0
Piaro ...	576·6	640·6
Buxar	474·2	488·4
Dumraon	674·2	740·7
Sasaram	193·8	204·8
Dhangain	490·2	496·8
Kharghar	393·4	389·3
Dehri	437·8	493·3
Bhabhua	181·9	188·0
Mohanea	388·6	421·0

22. A comparison of the changes in density would be a mere repetition of the remarks made above in paragraph 14. The density of the population is lowest in the Sasaram and Bhabhua *thanas*, in which the Kaimur hills are included. This plateau is thinly populated. The part of the district nearest the Ganges and lying near the railway is more thickly peopled than any other. The density of the Buxar *thana* is, indeed, less than that of Dehri, though the former is on the railway and its jurisdiction is bounded on the north by the river Ganges. Its territory is, however, a comparatively narrow strip, and it has two subordinate outposts lying far south of the railway and sparsely populated.

Head IV.—Religion.

23. The following table exhibits the numbers of persons returned as adherents of the different religions in the last as compared with previous censuses:—

Census of—	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Christians.	Jains.	Buddhists.	Brahmos.	Others.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1872 ...	1,690,643	132,671	461	...	...	...	199
1881 ...	1,806,741	145,610	276	...	...	...	20
1891 ...	1,914,110	148,459	277	453	21	17	...

It will be seen that the Hindus have increased at the rate of 5·9 and the Muhammadans at the rate of 1·9 per cent. The other changes are insignificant.

Jains of course existed in Shahabad in 1872 and 1881, but they must have been counted with Hindus. It may be noticed that the percentage of increase for Hindus and Muhammadans here given does not tally with the percentage of increase for the whole district population given in paragraph 11. The reason is that it is not possible to ascertain the religions in 1881 of the inhabitants of that part of the district which was transferred in 1890 to Saran.

24. The following table gives the distribution by *thanas* of the population according to religion :—

NAME OF THANA.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Christians.	Jains.	Buddhists.	Brahmos.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arrah ...	321,268	28,315	62	406	4	...
Belauti ...	187,995	10,854	14	...	...	...
Piaro ...	187,161	10,797	11	...		...
Buxar ...	154,768	11,481	172	1	17	6
Dumraon ...	255,068	16,640	3	...	...	...
Sasaram ...	144,172	19,890	14	..	...	...
Dhangain ...	170,831	11,515	...	...	...	...
Kharghar ...	98,906	4,649	...	...	...	...
Dehri ...	75,678	7,683	31	...	...	...
Bhabhua ...	166,747	15,215	3	...	...	...
Mohanea ...	151,516	11,420	...	...	...	...
District Total ...	1,914,110	148,459	277	453	21	1·7

NOTE.—The thana details of Christians, Jains, and Brahmos do not correspond with the totals under those religions shown in the Bengal Census Report.

Municipal figures have been included in this table in the figures for the *thana* in which they are situate, in order that the table may correspond with Table XXIV appended to the census report of 1881. There is nothing particularly worthy of remark in these figures. The only new sect is the Brahmo ; but persons of that persuasion have doubtless been reckoned as Hindus in the previous censuses. The Buddhists found in Shahabad were all Burmese convicts in the Central and District Jails. In 1881, 20 Kols were found in the Dhangain *thana* and nowhere else in the district. These men have apparently immigrated to Buxar.

HEAD V.—INFIRMITIES.

25. The following table exhibits the distribution of different infirmities in relation to different parts of the district, separate figures being given for rural and urban areas :—

NAME OF THANA.	Population.	Blind.		Deaf and mute.		Leper.		Insane.		Total.		
		M.	F.	M.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Both sexes.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Arrah	303,207	144	161	38	39	112	22	12	8	306	230	536
Belauti	186,380	88	56	15	13	92	16	16	6	211	91	302
Piaro	197,964	57	50	16	10	156	23	17	4	246	87	333
Buxar	150,932	110	90	26	29	58	11	4	2	198	132	330
Dumraon	253,327	105	117	34	9	58	9	4	7	231	142	373
Sasaram	141,391	224	232	66	37	29	10	12	5	331	284	615
Dhangain	182,346	111	121	22	7	77	13	12	3	222	147	369
Khairghar	103,555	104	125	27	8	24	3	3	3	158	131	297
Dehri	83,381	36	33	20	22	26	4	6	4	88	63	151
Bhabua	171,749	80	64	22	26	46	8	8	4	156	102	258
Mohanea	102,937	54	56	14	21	39	15	6	5	113	97	210
Total ...	1,937,138	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,774
Arrah town	46,905	38	62	21	30	12	4	15	11	86	107	193
Sasaram	22,713	35	40	25	18	17	9	15	7	92	74	166
Dumraon	18,384	20	9	4	6	10	3	4	1	38	19	57
Buxar	15,506	13	14	7	3	4	...	1	...	25	17	42
Jagadispur	12,475	5	6	4	4	3	2	5	4	17	16	33
Bhabhua	10,216	20	18	6	6	5	...	3	...	34	24	58
Total for urban areas	126,199	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	549
GRAND TOTAL ...	2,063,637	1,244	1,257	367	288	798	152	143	74	2,552	1,771	4,323

The first point in these figures that attracts attention is the high percentage of infirmities to the population in urban as compared with rural areas. A perusal of the figures cannot but suggest the inference that there is something about the *thana* and town of Sasaram

NOTE—The totals of columns 3 to 13 do not correspond with the figures in the Census Report, which are as follows :—

Column 3 ... 1,947	Column 6 ... 446	Column 9 ... 168	Column 12 ... 2,503
" 4 ... 2,121	" 7 ... 768	" 10 ... 81	" 13 ... 6,492
" 5 ... 806	" 8 .. 147	" 11 ... 3,689	

that renders the inhabitants particularly liable to disease. The people are indeed miserably poor, and the town is a net-work of narrow, ill-ventilated, and worse drained *gullies*.

26. The following table illustrates the distribution of the same infirmities with relation to the two religions of Hinduism and Muhammadanism, and compares the results of this and the last census :—

		Blind.		Deaf and mute.		Leper.		Insane.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Hindus ...	1881	2,491	2,862	1,060	608	1,270	256	187	89
	1891	1,121	1,117	338	258	703	132	129	59
Muhammadans	1881	222	280	94	64	64	24	23	18
	1891	123	140	29	29	95	20	14	15
Total of all religions.	1881	2,713	3,142	1,154	672	1,334	280	210	107
	1891	1,244	1,257	367	288	798	152	143	74

NOTE.—The totals of columns 2 to 9 do not correspond with figures in the Census Report, which are as follows :—

Column 2	...	1,947	Column 5	...	446	Column 8	...	168
" 3	...	2,121	" 6	...	763	" 9	...	89
" 4	...	806	" 7	...	147			

27. The large decrease in the number of the blind is a matter for congratulation. In the census report of 1881 Mr. Bourdillon stated that the statistics of the blind returned in 1881 were fairly accurate. It is not at all likely that those returned in the present census are otherwise, or that any totally blind persons have not been returned as such.

28. The great attention that has of late years been paid by medical men in India to diseases of the eye, as well as extended vaccination, must have had something to do with the decrease in blindness.

29. No definition of insanity was given for the purposes of the census.

30. Leprosy was defined and enumerators were told to notice only the corrosive and not the white variety. These instructions were doubtless understood. So many inspecting officers were appointed in this district to supervise the preliminary enumeration, that there must have been very few such entries in the enumerators' books which escaped criticism.

HEAD VI.—EDUCATION.

31. The figures given in the report of the census of 1881 show that the number of persons who can read and write and were under instruction were—

Males ...	under instruction	13,960
	can read and write	36,930
Females ...	under instruction	385
	can read and write	1,024

The figures for 1891 are –

Males ...	under instruction	9,402
	can read and write	64,072
Females ...	under instruction	187
	can read and write	1,728

32. The number of literate persons has nearly doubled during the last ten years, but apparently the number attending schools is smaller now than it was ten years ago. The census figures do not coincide with those supplied to me by the Deputy Inspector of Schools in this district; but his figures agree with those of the census in showing a decrease in the number of schools and pupils, and are as follow :—

	Total pupils.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Schools.
1880-81	... 17,629	14,933	2,635	1,388
1890-91	... 16,441	13,155	3,286	734

33. It is not possible for me in this report to discuss the different causes which may have brought about this result during the last ten years. But the policy of the Education

Department has been to abolish schools where no real work was done, and it may be granted that where there is education it is more thorough than it was ten years ago. The actual statistics of schools, as given by the Deputy Inspector of Schools, are contained in the following comparative table:—

Class of Schools.		1880-81.		1890-91.		Remarks.
		Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	
1		2	3	4	5	6
Secondary schools.	High English ...	2	604	6	1,718	
	Middle English ...	30	1,157	9	401	
	„ vernacular ...	16	685	10	409	
Primary schools.	Upper primary ...	57	1.627	35	1,681	
	Lower „ ...	1,214	12,942	339	8,626	
Special school (indigenous) ...		...	...	2	163	
Female schools		...	...	8	187	
Advanced, teaching	Arabic or Persian ...	...	...	54	548	
	Sanskrit	...	...	72	661	
Elementary, teaching	With 10 pupils and upwards.	...	...	66	1,059	
	With less than 10 pupils	...	...	73	459	
	Ditto girls	...	...	1	6	
Teaching the Koran only		...	...	53	304	
Other schools not conforming to the Departmental standards.		...	...	6	159	
Other schools as given in the report of 1880-81.		69	614	...	...	
Grand Total ...		1,388	17,629	734	16,441	

34. Twenty-five middle English and vernacular schools were closed during the last ten years, as the number of pupils fe l off. Many upper primary schools were reduced to a lower primary status, and again the number of lower primary schools has been reduced owing to the closure of bogus *patshalas*.

35. The following table gives the number of persons literate, illiterate, and under instruction in the different *thanas* and towns, as well as those acquainted with English:—

No.	Thana.	Males.				Females.				Both Sexes.			Total population.	Number of persons who can read and write English.
		Learning.	Literate.	Illiterate.	Total.	Learning.	Literate.	Illiterate.	Total.	Learning.	Literate.	Illiterate.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Arrah	1,508	17,078	120,920	139,506	4	163	103,534	103,701	1,512	17,241	284,454	303 207	214
2	Do., M. P.	1,721	5,251	16,454	23,426	30	346	23,103	23,479	1,751	5,597	39,557	40,905	668
3	Belauti	539	5,866	82,247	88,652	1	129	97,598	97,728	540	5,995	179,845	186,380	109
4	Jagadispur	156	813	4,977	5,946	...	48	6,481	6,529	156	861	11,458	12,475	45
5	Piaro	530	6,031	89,419	95,980	3	156	101,824	101,983	533	6,187	191,243	197,903	53
6	Buxar	283	5,514	66,776	72,573	5	110	78,244	78,359	288	5,624	145,020	150,932	77
7	Do., M. P.	395	1,539	6,229	8,163	9	120	7,214	7,343	404	1,659	13,443	15,506	168
8	Dumraon	697	6,862	111,858	119,407	7	215	133,698	133,920	704	7,067	245,556	253,327	202
9	Ditto, M P. ...	400	1,556	6,743	8,699	28	106	9,562	9,685	428	1,661	16,295	18,384	91
10	Sasaram	507	2,917	65,158	68,582	2	38	72,739	72,779	509	2,955	137,897	141,361	34
11	Ditto, M. P. ...	626	1,511	7,632	9,769	9	49	12,886	12,944	635	1,560	20,518	22,713	105
12	Dhangain	567	5,666	82,439	88,672	6	109	93,559	93,674	573	5,775	175,998	182,346	105
13	Kharghar	184	2,014	48,473	50,671	1	29	52,854	52,884	185	2,043	101,327	103,555	26
14	Dehri	390	2,473	38,221	41,084	5	57	42,235	42,297	395	2,530	80,456	83,381	83
15	Bhabhua	184	2,823	81,519	84,528	...	138	87,083	87,221	186	2,961	168,602	171,749	29
16	Do., M. P. ...	83	607	4,440	5,130	1	16	5,069	5,086	84	623	9,509	10,216	56
17	Mohanea	378	2,513	77,120	80,011	1	56	82,869	82,926	379	2,569	159,989	162,937	18
	Total ...	9,150	71,024	910,625	990,799	112	1,884	1,070,542	1,072,538	9,262	72,908	1,981,167	2,003,337	2,101

Note.—The table of columns 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 15 do not correspond with the figures in the Census Report, which are as follow:—

Column 3 ..	9,402	Column 5 ...	917,328	Column 8 ...	1,728	Column 11 ...	9,589	Column 13 ...	1,987,948
„ 4 ...	64,072	„ 7 ...	187	„ 9 ...	1,070,623	„ 12 ...	65,800	„ 15 ...	2,104

Head VII.—Languages.

36. An examination of the returns showing the languages spoken by the people discloses no change of importance. The number of persons speaking Hindi and Urdu was 2,060,485, 1,724 have been returned as speaking Bengali, 355 as speaking English. Other Indian languages, such as Panjabi and Mahratti, are represented by less than 100 persons.

37. One hundred and thirty-nine persons have been returned as speaking Dhangari. This does not indicate any real change. The same persons were doubtless returned as Hindi-speaking in 1881. The same explanation may be given for the appearance in the returns of the last census of one person speaking the Mundari and twelve the Sonthali dialect; although of course it is possible that these persons may have entered the district since 1881. The 139 Dhangari-speaking people appear in the Sasaram and Bhabhua *thanas*, which include the Kaimur hills. The Sonthals were found in the plains in Buxar *thana*.

38. The number 1,724 returned for Bengalis is small, but is probably correct: 1,320 of these reside in the towns of Arrah, Sasaram, and Buxar. Wherever they go they form a distinct clique, and though they do not avoid the society of Biharis, still no native ever mistakes a Bengali for a Bihari.

Head VIII.—Castes.

39. The following statement shows the predominating castes in the district, arranged according to their numerical importance:—

Name of Caste.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Rajput	138,724	142,239	280,963	
2. Ahir or Goala ...	131,205	141,832	273,037	
3. Brahman	98,928	111,485	210,413	
4. Koiris	71,597	75,499	147,096	
5. Chamars	47,375	57,963	105,311	
6. Babhan	52,304	38,093	90,397	
7. Kahars	29,064	32,025	61,089	
8. Kurmis	28,778	30,261	59,039	
9. Kayasths	24,260	27,037	51,297	
10. Telis	21,095	26,349	47,444	

40. It will be seen that Rajputs head the list, and that next in order are Ahirs or Goalas. The Rajputs and Brahmans furnish the larger portion of the recruits to the native army from this district. They are mostly *zamindars* or holders of perpetual tenures. Ahirs, Koiris, and Kurmis are the cultivating classes. The Brahman has a home in every hamlet as a family priest, or is in secular employ as teacher. In a Hindu community he exercises great influence. He presides over worship and social ceremonies, and derives his means of livelihood from what is called "Jajmanka." The other predominating castes are all connected with the village system and play their parts in its little world.

41. Kayasths in the district occupy the 9th position They have a practical monopoly as regards education, and thus secure the bulk of appointments in the service of Government.

Head IX.—Occupation.

42. The subjoined statement shows the distribution of population according to occupation—

Classes of occupation.	Subdivisions of each class of occupation.	Total population.	Male population.	Female population.	Remarks showing caste.
1	2	3	4	5	6
A—Agricultural.	1 *Zamindars*	32,707	16,392	16,315	
	2 Tenure-holders	19,023	6,721	12,302	
	3 Occupancy or non-occupancy raiyats ...	1,020,152	489,727	530,425	
	4 Field labourers	21,827	9,934	11,893	
	Total of Class A ...	1,093,709	522,774	570,935	
Priestly ...	1 Priests	44,280	20,753	23,527	
	2 Religious mendicants	145	47	98	
B—Professional literate.	1 Law	1,289	646	643	
	2 Medicine	1,605	738	867	
	3 Painters, &c.	138	76	62	
	4 Brokers	1	1	...	
	Total of Class B ...	47,458	22,261	25,197	

Classes of occupation.	Subdivisions of each class of occupation.	Total population.	Male population.	Female population.	Remarks showing caste.
1		3	4	5	6
C—Commerce.	1 Bankers	...	...	...	
	2 Money-lenders	3,268	1,693	1,575	
	3 Money-changers and testers ...	692	317	375	
	4 General merchants	6 235	2,791	3,444	
	5 Shopkeepers	19,848	9,752	10,096	
	6 Contractors and farmers of liquor shops, emigrants, &c.	617	367	250	
	7 Cart, carriage, tramway owners and drivers, palki-bearers, &c.	10,846	5,953	4,893	
	8 Carriers of pack animals	6,405	3,337	3,068	
	9 Owners of vessels and boats, &c. ...	3,732	2,058	1,674	
	10 Storage and weighing	437	199	238	
	Total of Class C ...	52,080	26,467	25,613	
D—Artisans	1 Fabrics and dress stuffs	70,631	33,889	36,742	
	2 Food and drink	53,981	25,500	28,481	
	3 Animal substance	35,492	15,696	19,796	
	4 Vegetable substance	47,119	23 559	23 560	
	5 Mineral substance	39,034	19,392	19,642	
	6 Lighting	29,463	13,449	16,014	
	7 Fuel and forage	2,390	866	1,524	
	8 Buildings, carts, carriages, boats, &c. ...	4,826	2,548	2,278	
	9 Glass and pottery	21,613	10,326	11,287	
	10 Wood, canes, bones, and bamboos ...	29,617	14,144	15,473	
	11 Gums, wax, drugs, and dyes ...	4,444	2,152	2,292	
	12 Leather, horns, and bones ...	28,4 0	13,932	14,558	
	13 Supplementary requirement, such as stationery, timepieces, toys, musical instruments, necklaces, beads, furniture, harness, tools, machinery, arms and ammunition.	18,468	8,765	9,703	
	Total of Class D ...	395.568	184,218	211,350	
E—Pastoral groups.	1 Stock breeding and dealing ..	10,337	5,589	4,748	
	Total of Class E ...	10,337	5,589	4,748	
F—Hunting and fishing groups.	1 Hunting groups	613	305	308	
	2 Fishing groups	3,689	1,879	1,810	
	Total of Class F ...	4,302	2,184	2,118	
G—Serving groups.	1 Service under Government ...	10,283	5,779	4,504	
	2 Service under local bodies ...	32	16	16	
	3 Railway service	265	184	81	
	4 Village service	23,962	12,719	11,243	
	5 Service under landlords	23,713	11,850	11,863	
	6 Service under merchants, shopkeepers, &c.	10	8	2	
	7 Domestic and personal service ...	101,956	49,495	52,461	
	8 Daily labour	283,538	134,481	149,057	
	Total of Class G ...	443,759	214,532	229,227	
Groups ...	1 Actors and mimics	1,243	593	650	
	2 Astrologers	...	...	...	
	3 Dancers and singers	2,649	1,184	1,465	
	4 Devotees	...	...	...	
	5 Geneologist and bards	...	...	...	
	6 Jugglers, snake-charmers, and animal exhibitors.	25	12	13	
H.—Unproductive.	7 Musicians and ballad reciters ...	...	..	...	
	8 Tumblers and acrobats	157	83	74	
	9 Disreputable means of livelihood ...	695	57	638	
	10 Charity and alms	19,542	9,428	10,114	
	11 House rents and share, &c. ...	422	170	252	
	12 Pensioners	221	88	133	
	13 Prisoners	1,170	1,159	11	
	Total Class H. ...	26,124	12,774	13,350	
	GRAND TOTAL ...	2,063,337	990,799	1,072,538	

43. According to this table the agricultural group forms the predominating one, and its distinguishing feature, that the bulk of the population is composed of occupancy or non-occupancy tenants. The castes from which this group is chiefly recruited are Rajputs, Ahirs, and Koiris. Females of the last two castes assist in the cultivation, performing weeding and other light field-work. Next in order stand those who live by service, the chi f heading under which is that of daily labourer. This is also recruited from Ahirs, Koiris, and Kurmis.

44. The artisan class comes third in order. In this class the majority are sellers of food, drink, and vegetable substances.

45. Commerce stands fourth, the largest section being that of shop-keepers and cart dirvers: money lenders are a small element, only one-fourteenth of the whole population.

46. On the whole, Shahabad is a purely agricultural district, for there are few who do not more or less depend on land for a livelihood.

Head X.—Administrative.

47. *Points in which the general instructions were departed from, with the reasons for doing so.*— The general instructions issued by the Census Superintendent were not departed from, though they were exceeded in one respect, viz, this, that the preliminary census was first taken on rough *chittas* or schedule forms prepared by hand. This was very necessary, as otherwise the printed schedules would have been a mass of illegible corrections.

48. *Definition of a village.*—The definition of a village, as defined in the Census Superintendent's circular No. 10 of 30th July 1890, was not followed at first, the houses in *tolas* being separately serially numbered. This mistake was, however, afterwards corrected, and the procedure ordered by the Census Superintendent was eventually properly carried out.

49. *Definition of a house.*—The common interpretation of house, the *bari*, was at first followed. This, however, was subsequently corrected, though only after a great deal of trouble. Eventually, however, things were set right, and the census was held on the basis desired by the Census Superintendent, viz., that of commensal families. I was not inclined to agree with the views of the Census Superintendent on this subject at first, but as the work went on I became a convert, and I now think that this is the only proper basis for a really correct result.

50. *Size of the charge or sub-charge.*—Originally each police *thana* in the district was made a separate charge, and each police outpost a sub-charge. After joining the district, however, in November I found that much confusion and delay resulted from working the outposts through the *thanas* I also found the same to be the case if the subdivisions were worked independently by the Subdivisional Officers. I therefore concentrated the actual direction of the whole work as much as possible in my own hands, and issued all my orders to outposts and *thanas* direct, sending copies of the orders to the Subdivisional Officers for them to assist in seeing that they were properly carried out Practically, therefore, the outposts became separate charges, the charges of the *thana* officers being reduced to the limits of the *thana khas* and all directions being issued direct from one centre. In this way uniformity in procedure was secured, and all orders reached the objective points with the least possible delay. I may also add that in order to assist the Subdivisional Officers in seeing that all orders were properly attended to, I appointed the Deputy Inspector and Sub-Inspector of Schools, the Excise Inspector and Sub-Inspector, two of the Sub-Deputy Collectors and a Circle officer on the irrigation staff, and the district *kanungo* as Census Inspectors. The district was mapped out between these officers, and I found them all of the greatest possible help in scrutinizing the work of supervisors and enumerators. I also specially deputed my Excise Deputy Collector, a very competent officer, as a roving Lieutenant, deputing him to different parts of the district as circumstances appeared from time to time to require. The whole of this staff, including the Joint-Magistrate as Subdivisional Officer in charge of the subdivision, and the three other Subdivisional Officers entered into the work with much energy, sparing no pains to bring it to a successful issue.

I should add that the Jagadispur estate was treated as a separate charge, and that each of the six municipalities in the district was also made a charge under the Chairman as Charge Superintendent.

51. *Size of the circle and block.*—The area of the district being 4,365 square miles and the total number of circles 709, and of blocks 8,580, it follows that the average area of each circle was 6·15 and of each block ·509. The average number of houses in each circle and block is shown in Statement I appended.

52. *Cost of numbering of houses*—The numbering of houses was done by the enumerators and supervisors under the supervision of the police, *geru* being used for the purpose: no expense was incurred.

53. *Permanent numbering of houses.*—I consider the permanent numbering of houses quite impracticable.

54. *Agency.*—The great bulk of the enumerators were *patwaris* and their *mutsaddies*. Where the supply failed, we had to fall back upon shopkeepers, *raiyats*, and others who could read and write; but much difficulty was felt in some parts of the district in this matter, and enumerators had in some places to be imported in the shape of *umedwars*, who took the work in hopes of being afterwards appointed to the paid Census establishment.

Classes from whom supervisors and enumerators were derived.—Supervisors and enumerators were recruited from all classes—*zamindars*, school-masters, *tahsildars*, and subordinate

Government officers; the Canal Department contributing largely to the latter class. For the enumeration of travellers by road and the boat population on the rivers, the police and *amlas* from my own and the Subdivisional Offices were employed. The boat population on the canals was censused by the Public Works Department officers.

55. *Whether their duties were willingly undertaken.*—With very few exceptions, the duties of the supervisors were willingly undertaken, appointment to the post being looked upon as a sort of distinction. The office of enumerator, on the other hand, was by no means eagerly sought after, except where *umedwars* came forward as aspirants for future favours. The village accountants, as a rule, did not grumble, but did their work as a matter of course, knowing that there was no help for it. But where enumerators had to be found beyond the ranks of *patwaris* and *umedwars*, persons were very backward in coming forward, and considerable pressure had to be used.

56. *Prosecutions, if any.*—Twenty-five fines were imposed by myself, 27 by the Joint-Magistrate, 43 by the Subdivisional Officer of Buxar, and 12 by the Subdivisional Officer of Bhabhua—in all 107. One of these was the case of a Bengali Babu, a railway clerk, who refused to answer legal questions put by the enumerator, and some half a dozen were punished for rubbing out house numbers: all the rest, about 100 in number, were cases of neglect of duty by supervisors and incorrect work by enumerators. In no case was any fine inflicted where it was not thoroughly well deserved. The effect was most salutary, and I invariably found that the example was never thrown away. The only Subdivisional Officer who tried the effect of warning without imposing fines was the Deputy Magistrate of Sasaram, with the consequence that the preliminary census there was anything but correct, and I was obliged to take special measures to counteract this mistaken leniency.

57. *Whether their duties involved any pecuniary expenditure, and how much?*—No charges were incurred on account of supervisors or enumerators, except in a few cases where travelling allowance was given to *amlas* on the regular staff, who acted as road or boat enumerators on the night of the census and next day.

58. *Attitude of the people.*—The attitude of the people left nothing to be desired. They entirely acquiesced in all our proceedings. I should mention, however, that there was considerable and widespread apprehension at one time that the census was a preliminary to the imposition of an additional *chaukidari* tax. This, I think, arose from the house numbering being made by *handis* or families, the idea being that the object was to increase the number of houses by this means in order to afford grounds for increasing the number of *chaukidars*. There was also a rumour that Government wished to ascertain the number of able-bodied men for employment as coolies and soldiers in view of a possible invasion by Russia, and for a short time, the Subdivisional Officer of Buxar reports, the Bhojpuri Rajputs in his subdivision became much elated at the prospect, and were proportionally disappointed when they found that their hopes of a fight were without foundation.

59 *Results.*—I have no doubt whatever about the correctness of the results. The enumerators' work was checked extensively by the Special Inspectors mentioned above and the Subdivisional Officers, and incorrect work was at once punished with fine, with the result that almost absolute correctness was obtained before the final round. Up to the last moment I continued to receive daily reports from the Inspecting Officers confirmatory of this fact.

There is an increase varying from 1 to 8 per cent. in every *thana* except Kharghar, where the decrease is only about 1 per cent. The increase, as might have been expected, is more marked in Bhabhua, the backward part of the district, than to the north where the population is more stationary. The slight decrease in Kharghar has not been explained by the Subdivisional Officer, and I am not aware of any special cause for this, but will make further inquiries and report the result.

60. The two statements called for by the Census Superintendent in his circular No. 47, dated the 3rd March 1891, are appended below—

I.—District Shahabad. Number of Houses 360,178. *Total population* 2,063,337.

	Number of charges and sub-charges.	Number of circles.	Number of blocks.	Average Number of Houses.			Number of Charge Superintendents derived from—				Number of Supervisors.		Number of Enumerators.					Remarks.
				In charge or sub-charge.	In circle.	In blocks.	District staff.	Police Department.	Education Department.	Other departments status which.	Paid.	Unpaid.	Hindu.	Muslman.	Other.	Paid.	Unpaid.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
In towns ..	6	64	500	4,187	303	43	...	...		6	...	64	460	130	.	...	590	Chairman of Municipalities.
,, rural areas	37	645	7,000	9,412	539	43	...	36		1*	.	645	7,673	317	...	...	7,990	* Manager of Jagadispur estate (private zamindari).

II.—District Shahabad. *Total Land population* 2,062,408. *Total Boat population* 929.

Number of Enumeration Books issued of—				Total schedules.	Number of red Boat Books issued of—		Red boat tickets.	Yellow travellers' tickets.	Number of loose Schedules issued.		Remarks.
60 schedules.	30 schedules.	20 schedules.	10 schedules.		24 schedules.	12 schedules.			For Europeans.	White vernacular.	Please state, if possible, how many books, loose schedules, and tickets were unissued, or if issued, were unused.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4,904	2,812	4,028	3,449	514,790	6	62	936	2,727	63	7	

61. *Abstraction and Tabulation.**—The first remark I have to make is that I think less pressure should be put on district officers to complete these operations rapidly. The policy of applying a large number of hands to the work in order to complete it quickly militates against accuracy. It would be better to extend the time and employ rather fewer hands. The district officer would naturally wish to conclude operations as quickly as possible and would employ as many competent persons as he could find. One man working for a month is likely to do more work and more accurate work than two who work for a fortnight.

* *Vide* letter No. 2793G., dated 21st January 1892, from J. H. Bernard, Esq., Covenanted Deputy Collector in charge, to the address of the Superintendent of Census.

62. As a matter of fact towards the end of the operations when it was necessary to engage a large number of tabulators we found it difficult to get the men. A certain number had to be dismissed from the office for careless work and some had lost a good part of their emoluments through fines. However well deserved such punishments are, outsiders who contemplate applying for employment look more at the actual pay drawn than any thing else. The employment of fewer men would therefore, I think, favour accuracy and be less expensive.

63. I believe many of the mistakes in abstraction could be traced to the careless way in which some of the enumerators' books were filled up. In the course of re-abstraction it was found that the columns of age, birth, district, and subcaste were sometimes so illegibly written that different abstractors in different rooms might easily have read them differently. The Hindi words meaning "married" and "widow" are quite distinct, yet enumerators in some cases managed to write them so badly that one could not be sure which was meant.

64. The only remedy for this that I can suggest is to employ a select number of hands (educated young men who have been enumerators and supervisors themselves would do well) to go through all the enumerators' books and under a responsible officer's orders fill up gaps and rewrite illegible words. Some special instructions might be given for their guidance, but generally a man with his wits about him, and whose special aim it is to decipher bad writing or to detect mistakes, is much more likely to do so satisfactorily than the man who has to abstract a certain number of pages a day and jots down at first sight what he takes the enumerator to have meant.

65. The proposal made in paragraph 3 of the Census Superintendent's Circular No. 98, dated 6th January 1892, has of course the merit that it would provide for the more difficult abstraction sheets being filled up by the best men; but at the same time I think there is an advantage in having the more difficult sheets I, XI, II and X filled up first as they are the basis of the operations. There are great facilities for comparison between them and for prevention of error.

66. Rupees 18 is ample pay for an abstractor, and I agree in the opinion of the Census Superintendent that a third of the pay might be withheld till the work was tested, no margin of error being recognised.

67. During the abstraction operations it sometimes became necessary to withhold more than one-third of some men's pay; this was felt to be a hardship by those who had come in from the *mufassal* for this special work and were hiring lodgings in the town. By raising pay in the way proposed there will be more room for withholding pay without causing hardship.

L. A.—Reg. No. 2968J—90—22-10-96.